

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHELL AND WESTCARB PARTICIPATE IN CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE PROJECT

Project, which includes a \$1 Million Contribution from Shell, Aims at Reducing CO2 Emissions

Houston – Shell and West Coast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership (WESTCARB) today announces their collaborative participation in a carbon dioxide (CO2) storage demonstration project. Shell funding and resources for the project, includes a contribution of \$1 million to fund a research field test pilot program for the underground injection of CO2. WESTCARB, led by the California Energy Commission, is one of six regional partnerships and sponsored by the Department of Energy's Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership program.

"We live in a world that demands more energy but less carbon dioxide," said Edward Hymes, Shell project manager. "Working with WESTCARB and the Department of Energy to deploy carbon storage technology will help Shell in its effort to strike this critical balance."

This collaboration reflects Shell's efforts to develop responsible solutions for managing CO2 emissions, while meeting the growing needs of its customers. By demonstrating carbon storage technology's potential large-scale viability, the WESTCARB collaboration will also help Shell meet California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's greenhouse gas reduction goals for 2020. "Shell aims to operate energy—efficient facilities with best-in-class environmental performance, and projects such as this are key to meeting this goal," continued Hymes. "Reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will require the active participation of government, industry and consumers."

Shell contributing to WESTCARB, a planned \$6 million CO2 storage research test, facilitates the project's completion. As part of the project, WESTCARB will inject up to 2000 tons of industrial-grade CO2 into deep porous rocks sealed naturally by cap rock. To ensure the greenhouse gas is stored securely, the project will continue to monitor the distribution of the underground CO2 at the site. The primary goal of WESTCARB's research test project is to help determine the long-term effectiveness of the underground storage of CO2. Through its contribution, Shell will provide industry cost-share support for this WESTCARB research project.

Shell and WESTCARB Participate in Carbon Capture/Page 2

"As we strive to shrink California's carbon footprint, we are encouraged that Shell has chosen to collaborate with us, explore how to capture and store carbon dioxide safely underground," said James Boyd, vice chair, California Energy Commission. "As an environmental and economic leader committed to reducing CO2 emissions, the State of California is most excited that Shell is joining us in the fight against global climate change." He added, "Shell is an advanced technology company operating in the energy sector and therefore is an ideal partner in this endeavor."

At varying stages, Shell is involved in carbon capture and storage (CCS) initiatives in Canada and in Europe. In Alberta, Canada, Shell has proposed a CCS project that could capture about one million tons of CO2 from a Shell facility, storing it permanently in deep underground geological formations. The project is in the feasibility and planning phase. The Barendrecht project in the Netherlands is also undergoing research to build a pipeline from Shell's Pernis Refinery to a depleted natural gas field. The initial project target is around 400,000 tons of CO2 storage per year.

About Shell

Shell Oil Company, including its consolidated companies and its share in equity companies, is one of America's leading oil and natural gas producers, natural gas marketers, gasoline marketers and petrochemical manufacturers. Shell, a leading oil and gas producer in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico, is a recognized pioneer in oil and gas exploration and production technology. Shell Oil Company is an affiliate of the Shell Group, a global group of energy and petrochemical companies, employing approximately 109,000 people and operating in more than 130 countries and territories.

About WESTCARB

The WESTCARB region consists of seven states — Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon and Washington — and the Canadian province of British Columbia. The California Energy Commission leads the \$6 million WESTCARB research team, which along with the U.S. Department of Energy is the principal contributor. The primary goal of the WESTCARB is to validate the feasibility, safety, and efficacy of carbon sequestration through a series of scientific studies and field tests.

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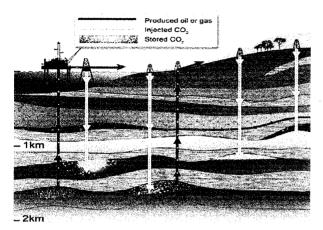
Shell and WESTCARB Participate in Carbon Capture/Page 3

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Quick Guide to Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage





Definition

Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (CCS) describes a set of technologies which can be used to collect carbon dioxide (CO₂) from industrial processes and power generation, separate and purify it, transport it to a storage site, compress it to a form suitable for storage and then place it in long term storage where it will remain indefinitely. Various forms have been conceived for permanent storage of CO₂. These forms include gaseous storage in various deep geological formations (including saline formations and exhausted gas fields), liquid storage in the ocean, and solid storage by reaction of CO₂ with metal oxides to produce stable carbonates.

Shell is principally interested in geological storage, although some work is taking place in the area of mineralization. The issue with the latter is the much smaller scale on which it operates. Shell is not working on ocean storage.

Potential Use

CCS is a technology typically imagined for coal-fired power generation. A 1 GW coal fired power station emits about 8 million tonnes of $\rm CO_2$ per annum, for a total of 400 million tonnes of $\rm CO_2$ in its 50-year life. The construction of coal-fired power generation is accelerating, with China and India in particular utilising this technology to support their rapid development. China is building some 50 GW of new coal-fired capacity each year (IEA World Energy Outlook 2007).

CCS applied to a modern conventional power plant could reduce CO_2 emissions to the atmosphere by approximately 80-90% compared to a plant without CCS. Capturing and compressing CO_2 requires energy and would increase the fuel needs of a plant with CCS by up to 20%.

CCS is also a technology of interest to the oil industry. Most refineries operate hydrogen-manufacturing facilities that vent nearly pure ${\rm CO_2}$ to atmosphere as a waste product. This ${\rm CO_2}$ could be captured and stored, thus lowering the ${\rm CO_2}$ emissions of the refinery. Future refineries upgrading bitumen products from oil sands require even more hydrogen and often have substantial electricity generating facilities associated with them. These relatively higher emitting operations could use CCS to lower their overall emissions to levels comparable with conventional refining.

Longer term, CCS could play an important role in the transport sector. Two options are possible;

- If hydrogen becomes an important transport fuel, CCS would allow this fuel to be centrally manufactured from fossil sources without CO₂ emissions.
- · If bio-fuels predominate, CCS could be used to store CO2 emitted

from the fermentation step in the process of ethanol manufacture, resulting in a net CO_2 removal from the atmosphere. Such a future strategy could even be important in addressing any overshoot in atmospheric CO_2 concentrations.

Why do we need CCS?

Almost all future pathways to a 450 - 550 ppm atmospheric concentration of CO₂ require CCS. Only a high nuclear scenario can reduce it. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development report "Pathways to 2050" showed that by 2050 some 1,000 large coal fired power plants could be in operation utilising CCS, with all new facilities using CCS from 2025.

The timing of CCS deployment is also critical. A study using the Shell World Energy Model that underpins our scenarios showed that each year we delay the widespread deployment of CCS beyond 2020 would translate into a 1-ppm increase in long-term atmospheric stabilization levels of $\rm CO_2$. In other words, assuming deployment by 2020 can still result in a 450 ppm stabilization, then deployment by 2021 will mean that 451 ppm is the best we can achieve, and so on.

Capturing the CO₂

There are three types of CCS technology applied to coal-fired power generation;

- Post combustion the flue gas from a coal-fired power station is stripped of its CO₂, which is then available for storage.
- Pre combustion the coal is gasified rather than combusted, producing syngas (CO + H2). CO₂ can be easily recovered from syngas and is then available for storage.
- Oxyfuel combustion this is a variation of post combustion, but the fuel is burned in oxygen instead of air, such that the flue gas consists mainly of carbon dioxide and water vapour.

Storing the CO₂

As $\rm CO_2$ is pumped deep underground it is compressed by the higher pressures and becomes essentially a liquid, which then becomes trapped in the pore space between the grains of rock. Typically, an impermeable layer of cap-rock, such as shale, ensures that the $\rm CO_2$ does not rise back to the surface. The presence of $\rm CO_2$ in geological structures is a naturally occurring phenomenon. Occasionally $\rm CO_2$ wells are drilled so that the $\rm CO_2$ can be used for enhanced oil or gas recovery.

Over time, depending on the geology of the storage site, the CO₂ can react with the minerals in the rock, forming new minerals and providing increased storage security.

The Future of CCS

CCS is one of the few technologies that is entirely climate change driven, which means development and deployment will not happen without policy intervention.

A market price for CO₂ emissions, such as generated by the EU Emissions Trading System, is an effective deployment tool, but CCS must first be recognised as a valid mitigation technology by such systems. A legal framework must also exist to cover storage and long-term liability. Only the EU has proposed such recognition and the necessary framework.

Given that coal-fired power generation is growing rapidly in India and China, recognition of CCS as a valid emissions reduction technology under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol is also a priority.

But CCS is at a difficult stage in its development. Whilst all the individual technologies making up a CCS plant are in operation somewhere for some reason, a single end-to-end plant (e.g. coal-fired power station with CCS) has yet to be built. Large-scale demonstration is now essential. This remains a pressing issue due to cost. The potential for delay is high.